## FUNDING for CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

## An Investment in Justice for All Vermonters

Vermont's network of civil legal assistance programs provides effective, efficient legal advice and representation that helps low-income residents of Vermont address critical legal issues directly affecting their families, homes, incomes, jobs, and access to vital services. Not only does this work provide critical help to each individual client served, it provides significant economic benefits to Vermont's economy.

In 2017, civil legal services for low-income Vermonters had a \$66.4 million impact on the Vermont economy at a cost of only \$6 million. These impacts include:



\$32.7 million

in new income for low-income households



\$2.6 million

in cost savings including preventing evictions, foreclosures, and domestic violence



\$31.1 million impact on local spending

For every \$1 invested in civil legal assistance for low-income residents, the State and Vermonters see a rate of return of \$11.

Unfortunately, funding cuts over the last decade and a significant increase in the number of those eligible for and seeking assistance has created a profound gap in organizations' abilities to meet the civil legal needs of Vermont's low-income and vulnerable residents.

